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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NEGRO WELFARE  
LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY FOR  
APRIL AND MAY.

It pleases the Executive Secretary of the League to report at this, the Second Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Negro Welfare League that since its last meeting many things of great importance have happened.

The work is becoming more and more widely known, the services of the organization to the Community, and the Community's appreciation of its services are very noticeably increasing.

Last Meeting marked the retirement of Mr. A. V. Hamburg our first President, after one year's faithful service. It saw also the election to the Presidency of the Organization, Dr. W. H. Vail, whose interest in Negroes and public spiritedness are widely known.

The First Annual Meeting of the League held on April 15th was from many points of view a very huge success. It established in the minds of our friends and sympathizers a greater confidence in our organization, and it gave them something toward which to look forward yearly, it presented an opportunity for us to outline more clearly our line of work.

I note with very gratifying satisfaction that we are passing from an organization designed to help the "Poor Negro" so often sympathetically but also with some contempt called, into a body which is serving the purpose of bringing all the people in the Community in more sympathetic and appreciative relationship with each other, which is placing men and women in positions of the most economic advantage to themselves and their employers, where people can come and get correct and helpful advice and lastly which service as a clearing house for information, concerning Negroes in this section. I shall make these points clearer in my more minute figures later in this report.

Not alone is there honor but also a patriotic service of the supermost king was rendered by the League when it released for a sixteen days the services of the Secretary to go south in the Schools and try to induce some of the students to come to New Jersey and work on farms instead of going into other occupations. Eighteen Schools, beginning at Manassas Virginia and going as far south as Charlotte, N. C. were visited on the trip. More than two hundred names were solicited. In order to protect the League and myself, I had the students corres-

pond directly with Professor App, State Agriculturist, and Mr. Spitz of the department of Labor and arrange details of transportation, etc., with them. I was to get 43 men only. Up to May 15th, thirty-two had come.

It was found impossible to use them later than the 15th because the farmers needed them immediately and the schools would not close until the last of May and first of June.

Letters from Mr. Spitz, Professor App and Colonel Bryant will be interesting here.

Report in detail for April and May.

Number of persons given employment.  
Men 72 - - - - - Women 75.

Type of work, namely: on farms, in domestic service, in factories, drivers, foundries, janitors, janitresses, construction workers, office work, factories, and chemical workers.

Placements have been made in Newark, Harrison, Maplewood, Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield, Jersey City, and Livingston. Wages for domestic service has been \$30. per month, on farms \$40. per month and board, janitors, \$64. and \$70. a month. Factories and foundries for women \$6.00 and \$8.00 a week and piece work for women, thirty-five and forty cents an hour for men.

More than fifty calls were received for house workers, coming from Summit, Orange, Short Hills, Paterson, Newark, Maplewood, Bloomfield, Montclair, E. Orange, W. Orange, S. Orange, and Roselle. Fifteen different factories called for women workers asking for numbers from two to fifty.

Firms calling for men were Cyrus Currier, Harrison Incorporation, Lehigh Valley calling for 35 men, Matthew Gay, Leather works, Carnegie Steel, 15, Hyatt Roller Works, Worthington Pump Works, Augulus Robinson Construction Co., Verona Chemical Co., Verona, N. J., Chemical Co. of America, Springfield, N. J. These and Standard Under Ground Cable Co., Perth Amboy, N. J. These calls, diversified in their type and coming from various sections indicate clearly how widely known the work of the League is becoming.

It is pleasing to note that in April a record for rivet driving was made by a colored gang at Port Newark yard. They drove 501 rivets one afternoon. Two of the members of the

gang were placed in the yard by the League. Their names appeared in the Speed Up a weekly issued by the Submarine Corporation Co. and also a cartoon of the heater, who is champion writer of the yard.

Investigation.

An investigation was made of thirty shops and factories in which colored girls and women are employed in Newark. Many very significant things came to light as a result of this investigation.

(1) Types of work include tobacco factories, laundries, Knitting Mills, Shirt Factory, Canvas Makers, Foundries, Glue Makers, Fur Factories, Leather Factories, Handkerchief, and Toy Factories.

(2) Between 800 and 1,000 girls and women are employed in factories, shops, etc.

(3) That in certain types of work namely, tobacco factories, laundries, canvas makers, they show the same stamina and speed as whites, but where constant drive and operation of a power machine is the condition they are much slower.

(4) That where the colored girl did show ability as an exception she was usually the best worker of either race in the shop; two or three instances of this came to light.

(5) That generally there was not manifested on the part of the colored girl the same ambition as the whites they tired too quickly under pressure.

(6) That the average wage earned by them in any plant when a full week was put in was between \$8.00 and \$9.00. Many exceptions of girls earning more were noted, for instance, one girl sent to a toy factory by the League some three months ago became so proficient as to do an average of 12 and 13 gross a day of special type of work being paid at a rate of 27cents per gross.

(7) That there is one factory with fifty machines all of which could be used for colored girls if the right type were gotten and a colored forlady would be employed, there are about eighteen girls there at present.

(8) That the fear of race feeling toward working with colored girls is largely a "scare" and that employers are finding Negro girls a profitable industrial asset when they are sympathetically and encouragingly treated.

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(9) That the greatest complaint against colored girls is  
IRREGULARITY AND INDEPENDIBILITY.

On this point the invariable question from the employer was, "Is there a place where Colored girls can meet, nice place; they look so sleepy some of them when they come, like they have spent their nights in places not good for them?" My answer of course was, much to my embarrassment "NO."

One employer wrote me a check for \$100 toward starting such a place and promised his continual support after we got it going.

#### Recreation

(1) The social Centre at the Belmont Ave. School is still open and attracting many.

(2) Troop 55, Boy Scouts, under the Leadership of Mr. John Ellsworth and Alton Diggs, is meeting weekly in the Club Room of the Female Charities Bldg. Mrs. Ornan Wright, boys worker has expressed her thanks to me for sending them, such a fine group of boys.

St. James Red Cross Chapter still meeting at the Central Ave. Rooms which the League secured for them. We are especially proud of the enthusiasm they exhibited in co-operation in the Second Red Cross War Fund. Not only did they secure memberships, but they with their boxes begged on the streets as well. Our pride comes here because we came to the rescue of this chapter and secured a meeting place for them at a time when they were considering disbanding temporarily because of the want of a place to meet.

We co-operated with the Automobile Club in seeing that the children of the Good Samaritan Home got the advantage of their outing on June 20th.

We are trying to arrange for some of our boys to go to Bear Mountain with the New York Urban League Club if they secured the camp.

#### Co-operation

Board of Education, Probation Department, Department of Labor Down Town Committee, Bureau of Associated Charities, Children's Aid, Female Charities, Mayor's Committee on National Defense, Dept. of Health.

#### Health.

Several health lectures were given in April. One food

demonstration given. Food demonstration literature was distributed.

Cases.

We have noticed that where there were heretofor probably three or four Negro Children brought before the court during a month, there are now that many at each court setting.

An unusual number of cases of the unmarried mothers has come to our attention recently. A letter from Dr. Levy will give a very concrete through lamentable picture of the situation.

Read letter

In discussing the matter with Dr. Levy he said he believed there were two ways which this growing social evil might be counteracted.

- (1) A worker to work with unmarried mothers and see that the father of the children are duly punished.
- (2) Secure a place where colored girls can meet and have the influence of this place react through the Community.

It is to be noticed that this particular evil has increased within the last year. That is due to a war condition is immediately apparent. Whereas heretofore the girls worked mainly in domestic service where their hours were longer and they were more properly guarded, they now work in factories with a great deal of time in the evening and no decent place to spend it.

The demands made on us by the Community grow and I believe I may venture to say now that the City is ripe for any reasonable thing we ask of them to help further the work for the Negroes here. Our appeal however, must not be sentimental but on a business basis which will very definitely show what a large factor we are to the City's industrial and social life and how war is effecting us as well as others, and further than only by wise counsel and dealing with our people will the growing evil be lessened.

We have been called on to supply information concerning Negroes here by the Home Missions Council, the Church Extension Board of the Congregational Church, and the Dept. of Economics U. S.